



**For Immediate Release:** 08.31.05

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### **Village Forester Certified as Municipal Specialist**

Village Forester Jim Semelka has expanded his professional arborist credentials to become a municipal specialist, a designation that recognizes the unique challenges of maintaining trees in an urban environment.

Semelka earned the municipal specialist designation through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), an organization dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation for trees and promoting research, technology and the professional practice of arboriculture.

To become a *Certified Arborist/Municipal Specialist*, Semelka had to pass an examination that tested his professional skills in communication, public relations and education, administration, risk management, arboricultural practices and policy and planning.

The purpose of the ISA certification program is to improve the level of knowledge and standard of practice within the tree care profession. The program is designed to identify arboriculture professionals who have demonstrated a thorough knowledge of tree care practices. This certification is valid for three years.

Only ISA Certified Arborists in good standing with a minimum of three years experience managing the establishment and maintenance of trees in an urban environment are eligible to pursue the municipal specialist designation.

For more information about Village's Forestry programs and services, call the Public Works Department at 358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

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